

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 2, Folder 19

June 14, 1955 -  
October 12, 1955

0696

June 14th, 1955

Dear Roger:

I called you on the telephone this morning in order to say "hello" and, at the same time, to provide you with business so that the high average of Reed and Barton could be maintained. However, you were out and your secretary filled my needs in a very nice fashion, for which I give her and you my thanks.

Today we are graduating our Naval War College classes and the Secretary of the Navy will make the principal address. I hope that it is good; since he and I are fellow Californians, it most likely will be!

It was nice to see you in New York the other day and I was sorry I didn't have time to talk with you. As a matter of fact, as soon as the graduation is over I will be en route to New York. It is a dreadful nuisance but the work for the Naval War College is so satisfactory that I feel I can afford this trip without being too unhappy about it on such a hot day.

I have a remarkable story for you which I hope you will give to your Father-in-Law. It should create quite a laugh around the cabinet table. It is this:

Mr. Bulganin, the Russian premier, on his recent trip to Yugoslavia, purchased a bolt of cloth for a suit. He took this bolt of cloth to a Yugoslavian tailor and asked him to make him a suit. The tailor measured Mr. Bulganin, measured the bolt of cloth, and then said "Sir, I can make for you one coat, one vest, and two pair of trousers with this bolt of cloth". Mr. Bulganin was astonished and said to the tailor "Why, in Russia, the tailor never makes me more than one pair of pants! How does that happen?"

0697

June 14th, 1955

To this, the Yugoslavian tailor replied  
"Well, Sir, in Russia you were probably  
a bigger man than here!"

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Commander Roger H. Halliwell, USNR  
Reed and Barton Company  
Taunton, Mass.

0698

July 12, 1955

Dear Mary:

While in New York yesterday I noticed this clipping in the New York World-Telegram and Sun so I quickly clipped it out and here it is.

I knew that you were a Carter but I didn't know that some of your family had been Tories. Of course, it is true that even in the Newport area alone there were reportedly 400 Tory families. In other words, many families did not feel that the Revolution was exactly what they wished. I also didn't know that you were a descendant of the Calverts of Maryland as well. Clearly, you are of practically noble lineage!

I was sorry that I couldn't be at your party the other night. I wanted to go but unfortunately I had to go to New York on Government business and when that occurs, as you well know, everything else is erased.

Many thanks for your thoughtfulness to me and with best regards to you and Jimmy, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. James M. Beck, Jr.  
Ledge Rd.  
Newport, R. I.

0699

July 12, 1955

Dear Katherine:

As I looked at you during these past three - four memorable days and realized that you and Ena were responsible for most of the affairs going on, I couldn't help but be moved with admiration.

I know that the visiting guests were very pleased. For example, the French Consul General on Sunday last remarked to me upon the wonderful attitude of the local public, not only with relation to the officers but also with relation to the French sailors. As a matter of fact, when returning last night from New York I encountered at about ten o'clock French sailors with American girls walking down the street in two or three places where my car happened to pass. Truly, the local world is moving fast today!

I was asked by Senator Green also on Sunday last if I didn't think that affairs of this kind were of value internationally. I gave him an affirmative reply because I believe it to be so. Affairs of this kind are of enormous value in creating not only friendly relationships between nations but also in creating good will among ones own people by letting them know the problems that their ancestors faced, how they accomplished them, and who helped them to do so. Out of this we build our traditions.

I am sorry that I wasn't able to be of more help to you; however, my work here at the Naval War College carried me to new York and Washington so frequently that I was unable to assist you as much as I should have liked.

0700

July 12, 1955

With Best regards and with congratulations  
not only for your great success but, much  
more than that, for your patriotic concepts  
in the development of good will between  
nations, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. George Henry Warren  
118 Mill Street  
Newport, R. I.

0701

July 18, 1955

Dear Neo:

This is to congratulate you on the wonderful job you did for the Newport Preservation Society in arranging and directing the piano recital at the home of Mrs. Edgar Monroe. Everyone that I have seen who was there, and there are a number of them in the Naval War College, enjoyed the whole affair thoroughly and were quite impressed with the quality of the entertainers and notably of the piano players, of the guests, and of the beautiful Monroe home.

I thought that it was very wise of you to serve soft drinks instead of "hard" ones, although I must admit that Edgar Monroe privately gave me a "hard" one.

It is a remarkable thing that a woman of your stature in society can, at the same time, be such a wonderful executive. I think that Newport is lucky to have you! My hope is that you won't let them work you too hard. They certainly will if they can. Take it easy!

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. Theodore Grosvenor  
"Wyndham"  
Beacon Hill Road  
Newport, R.I.

0702

July 18, 1955

Dear Louise:

This is to tell you how much I enjoyed the "recital" held at your home last week in order to assist the Newport Preservation Society in its quest for funds.

We are all agreed that the recital, in general, was excellent but, more than that, we are agreed that your home was an ideal setting. Your main living room housed all of the guests adequately, no one was crowded, and the whole atmosphere was friendly and very much in tune with the beauty of the surroundings.

It was very nice of you and Edgar to see to it that soft drinks were served to those who desired to avail themselves of the loveliness of your garden. As for myself, I thoroughly enjoyed being included among the entertainers and invited to share in the after-recital buffet. It was very nice, indeed, and, need I say, beautifully prepared.

With many thanks to you and Edgar for your kindnesses to all of us, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. Edgar Monroe  
"Rosecliff"  
Bellevue Avenue  
Newport, R.I.

0703



5 August 1955

Dear Captain Dew:

This is to tell you that my trip across the continent in your plane (that is, operated by VR-3) was highly successful. I enjoyed it in every way and am happy to recommend trips via VR-3 planes to anyone.

The Naval War College, as you likely know, is improving steadily. The Selection Board has recently approved the promotion of eleven officers to flag rank who were graduates of the Naval War College, whereas, in the past, only one or two had been so selected. Presently, I hope to see most of the officers selected for flag rank are graduates of the Naval War College.

With best regards, and with many thanks for your assistance, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES,  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret)

Captain I.L. Dew, USN  
Commanding Officer  
Air Transport Squadron THREE  
U.S. Naval Air Station  
Moffett Field, California

0704

5 August 1955

Dear Frog:

It was very nice to see you and to have the privilege of talking to you for quite a long time. I have told Lynde of our conversations and he was quite interested in everything. It looks to me as if you, Struble and McCormick are the only three members of the class left on active duty, although, to a degree, I suppose I can be considered among you.

I told Lynde of the location of your new house and some of your problems connected therewith. He was quite interested in that since he still plans to move to the west coast when he retires. As I told you out there, he has been a fine President and I am sure the College will increase in stature under his guidance.

Since returning to the College I have spoken to my staff of your interest in that book written by Japanese officers (former officers) entitled "Midway, The Battle That Doomed Japan". I think that it would be well, having read that volume which, of course, only gives the Japanese side, to take out of your files the Naval War College study "The Battle of Midway", NavPers 91067, which I prepared. This volume gives both sides and is based on the Japanese information available at the time. You will note therein that the Japanese tracks differ from those in the Japanese volume. The Japanese volume, therefore, is incorrect as the positions given in the Naval War College publication were directly translated from the Japanese records. I was particularly interested in the fact that the giving away of intelligence information by our pilots was not recorded in the Japanese volume; however, it is recorded in the Naval War College volume.

0705

5 August 1955

I regret very much that I did not see  
your lovely wife but that is one of the  
disappointments in life.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Vice Admiral F.S. Low, USN  
Commander Western Sea Frontier  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

0706

August 8, 1955

Dear Arleigh:

Now that you are about to assume the vast responsibilities of Chief of Naval Operations I thought that I would write you a letter to wish you well in this extraordinarily important assignment.

First I want you to know that you are going into office with the fervent hopes of the Navy that you will be as successful in this new assignment as you have been in all of your previous assignments but notably in your destroyer operations in the "Slot". There you brought to light the fact that initiative, clear and logical thinking, decision and action were as effective in those operations as they have ever been in history, and reawakened those in power to the fact that these attributes were of vital importance in the character of those commanders who were to conduct combat operations.

Secondly I want you to know that there is remarkable unanimity of opinion among all officers as to the correctness of the Secretary's choice in making you the Chief of Naval Operations. Everyone feels that if it was necessary to obtain a relatively young Chief of Naval Operations you were the logical choice. Therefore you can rest assured that you are going into office with the complete support of the active navy and of the retired navy as well. This is a wonderful situation and should assist you greatly in what I consider to be one of your more difficult tasks, i.e. in making the navy appear so attractive to the younger officers that the resignation rate will decrease to a pre-war peace time normal. Having observed your success in the morale field in particular with the personnel of the destroyers here I feel sure that you will be equally effective in the larger field of the navy as a whole.

0707

I cannot but be impressed with the heavy responsibilities which will be yours. As I wrote Admiral Carney when he became Chief of Naval Operations "This is, of course, a vitally important assignment, and is particularly important today, not only because of the world situation, but because of the nature of our domestic finances. There is no doubt that the thinking public will be watching the actions of the Joint Chiefs of Staff with considerable interest".

Likewise since there is an election coming up next year it can be expected that many politicians will be watching the actions of the Joint Chiefs of Staff possibly -- and I hate to say this -- for the purpose of obtaining political ammunition. Fortunately because of your association with the press and with politicians in recent years I feel that you understand them well and will have little to fear on that score.

I know that you are as alert as any officer in any of the services to the changing concepts of warfare based in a large part on the appearance of new weapons. The complex problems set up thereby will be with us always and our problem is to insure that no prospective enemy or even friend, has solved these problems, as completely as we ourselves have.

With best regards to you and to Mrs. Burke and with best wishes for a most successful cruise as CNO, I am,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, U.S. Navy  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D.C.

0708

August 8, 1955

Dear Joe:

It was very nice to see you out on the coast and to note that you are enjoying life as much as ever and are at the same time being quite successful and accomplishing your mission in life.

Thank you very much for coming to the luncheon with me and my brothers at the Bohemian Club. I was anxious for those who didn't know you to know you, and for those who didn't know you well to know you better.

I enjoyed my trip out to the coast a great deal -- a great deal more than I expected. This was primarily so because of the delightful weather which, when compared with Newport's terrific heat, made California an enviable place. The weather has now broken here and they are forecasting fairly decent weather, for the next few days anyway. Meanwhile, Hurricane Connie is building up north of Turks Island in the Carribean and everyone, because of last years misfortunes, is becoming highly excited. There is no need for this because no one knows much about this hurricane as yet.

I am sending you a clipping which I cut out from this mornings Boston Daily Record (August 8, 1955). This editorial has to do with Senator Kuchel and points out the correctness of the field in which he is operating, i.e., super-highways. I would like to suggest that this is one of the points that Senator Kuchel should press, and editorials like this in Massachusetts newspapers should help him in California.

With best regards to you and yours, I am, as ever,

Your old Friend,

R. W. BATES

Commander J.J. Sullivan, USNR  
111 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California

0709

August 8, 1955

Dear Mick:

This letter is to wish you "Aloha" and all happiness in civilian life in whatever line of endeavor you may choose.

You have succeeded admirably in the Navy -- everything you have attempted has been very successful indeed -- and the Navy and the Country are much the better because of your service to your Flag.

I can assure you that there was universal disappointment when the President decided not to reappoint you. I don't know a naval officer of consequence who was not hopeful that you would be reappointed because all of them felt, as I do, that you were a superb Chief of Naval Operations.

I think that, as Chief of Naval Operations, you succeeded in a large measure in, as you say in your letter to me, healing the wounds of bitterness which the many different concepts of warfare, as well as the other items mentioned, had developed throughout the war, and after, among various cliques within the naval service. I hear very little about that now. Perhaps it is because I am here at the Naval War College where the thought of Country is ever paramount; perhaps because most of those who caused the discontent are out of the service, but mostly perhaps because of the success of your efforts in that line.

With regard to my own work, I want you to know that I have no intention of starting new controversies through loose language or improper research. I feel simply that I must solve the old and major controversies adequately. It is for that reason that, in my battle analyses, I go back to the source and then commence the analysis from there. For that reason, the analyses are long -- in fact, Leyte Gulf will

0710

August 8, 1955

be quite long. I have finished two volumes of that battle and have two well underway. These volumes I have had reviewed by officers such as Raymond Spruance, Henry Hewitt, Donald Beary, Lynde McCormick, Richard Conolly, Francis Low, Ralph Wilson, Elmer Yeomans, Henry Eccles, and many others, including the college professors on the staff who have been extraordinarily complimentary. The opinion of all is that I have succeeded surprisingly well in maintaining the objective point of view. I sincerely hope that I can continue to be successful in that field for without it my analyses would be worthless. Perhaps one reason for my reported success is the fact that in so far as possible I never permit anything not in the hands of the commander at the time to be given to me. Thus, my opinions are based on the facts of the moment. Of course, in some cases there will be some hindsight but this has not resulted as often as you might imagine. This is true because no officer, even those in command positions, ever knows much more than what is occurring in his own immediate area and even there he is likely to be seriously in error. For example, in my study of the Battle of Surigao Strait, I have discovered that the torpedo fire of the destroyers and the gunfire of the battleships was far less effective than reported. This was because (a) the torpedo fire of the destroyers was not coordinated and because the torpedoes were fired at longer ranges than necessary, and (b) because the ships of the battle disposition fired at the leading Japanese battleship (YAMASHIRO) and generally left both the MOGAMI and SHIGURE free of gunfire. I did not know this at the time although I had had a suspicion of it and had discussed it later with Captain (now Admiral) Roland Smoot.

I sent Grace some flowers from San Francisco. I was out there on a short holiday including a few days in the Bohemian Grove and when I saw these flowers I said "Who should have these more than Grace?".

0711



August 8, 1955

With best wishes to you again for your future happiness, with thanks for your thoughtful letter to me, and with deep appreciation of your services to our beloved Country, I am, as ever,

Your old and sincere friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral Robert B. Carney, U.S. Navy  
Chief of Naval Operations  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D.C.

0712

August 8, 1955

Dear Swede:

Upon my return from a trip to California -- which lasted about three weeks -- I encountered a letter from you. I was very happy to receive it for several reasons, the most important being to discover the state of health of yourself and that of your family; the other, to report to you concerning my own operations and those of an old friend of yours now here. I was astonished to discover that there was a professor here, Dr. Keener Frazer, who used to live next door to you in Chapel Hill. He is extremely friendly about you and told me that if you had had a better heart condition they would have made you Dean of Men at the University of North Carolina. I feel, from my conversations with him, that he is of high character and type and that the Naval War College should gain through his association with it.

I note that you seem to be alright and that Ibby and your children all seem to be likewise. I noted, with regret, that your sister was unhappily incapacitated. I know exactly what has happened to her because the same thing happened to my Mother and for a period of a year and a half she was in a sanatorium suffering from hardening of the arteries, which eventually ended in her death. Diseases of this type are a tremendous strain, not only on the patient, but also on those who feel responsible for her.

My trip to California was very pleasant. I went out there primarily to see my four brothers, who feel that, when I am away from here, I forget them. It is a rather surprising thing but upon my arrival all hands gathered from hundreds of miles and perhaps, after all, I am temporarily the family center. All of my brothers are, in general, fine, although my eldest brother was unhappy about the condition at home -- his wife has very bad epilepsy -- and he is suffering badly because of this.

I went to the Bohemian Grove for a few days and found it wonderful because the temperature was a tremendous drop from Newport. Our night temperature in Newport was about 80°F and that in the Grove about 44°F. The Grove night temperature was just as much too cold as that in Newport was too great. The mean of both was found in San Francisco. There we had fog in the morning which was cleared at about ten o'clock and everything was delightful thereafter.

0713

August 8, 1955

I share your disappointment concerning, principally, the resignation of your elder son-in-law, Scott. Ibbey spoke to me about this and indicated that Buddy was as upset as she. There is no doubt that at present there is a "sorry" attitude within the Navy, and all the other armed services, owing, in a large part, to the attacks on the armed services after the war. Frankly, I think that these attacks are inspired mostly by "Commie" agents but whoever it is they have been effective. Congress is making an effort to straighten this out -- to give credit to those who deserve credit, and to increase pay and retirement benefits so that it will be worthwhile for a man to serve his Country. By worthwhile, I don't mean in a financial way but rather in a mental way. I think that Admiral Burke is alert to this. He was working on it at Newport with the destroyers and I feel confident that he will be more effective than most commanders in improving the situation.

As for your son-in-law, Jonas Kessing, I did not expect him to remain in. He is a reserve officer and it was my idea that he had planned to resign as soon as the law permitted. Whether or not Alice likes this, I don't know.

I sent Alice a card from California. I am sorry that she got away before I saw the new child but I haven't much interest in seeing a newly born baby. To the parents the newly born baby's appearance is wonderful but to me I am afraid there is little worse!

My work here is progressing slowly but surely. My second Volume on Leyte will come out -- possibly this month -- the third and the fourth ones are underway but I cannot forecast when they will be done. There are too many important points and problems to be thought out and thought requires time.

The weather in Newport has suddenly broken -- the great heat has temporarily departed -- and we have had a lot of rain today which was required by nature (and by my car!), and all is temporarily well.

With best regards to you and yours, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Captain E.E. Hazlett, Jr., USN(Ret)  
Forest Hills  
Chapel Hill, N.C.

0714

August 11th, 1955

Dear Charlie:

I received your letter of July 18th with a great deal of interest and was very glad to hear from you again.

I had not sent this volume (Battle of Surigao Strait) to you as yet because I had been hoping to hear from Admiral Curts and Admiral Sylvester concerning it. I haven't heard from them as yet so I presume they are working hard on other matters and are only able to get at the analysis infrequently.

I think you are quite right about it being better for you to remain at sea, although I am no authority on any matters as regards today's Navy. The civilian secretaries exercise such "sway" on selection boards that it is difficult to say what is preferable, i.e., to be capable or to be young. I know you are capable; I won't look to see how young!

In view of your request, I am going to send you the volume as far as we have gone with it, which is not much farther than when you left here. However, Trembath has been collecting data on it for a long time and one day soon we will be able to go into it and finish it.

I notice that the captains promotion list has come out today and, as you said, they did not get down to you. I do notice though that they did pick up a few below you but they all seem to be specialists whereas you are a naval officer of the "seagoing variety". I would be interested in knowing if you have any information on your own situation. Meanwhile, I may look into the situation myself and find out if you have any strikes against you at all, other than your medical record. We both agree that the medical record is difficult to overcome and it probably will require more time at sea to convince the flag officers that you are able physically to take the load. Evidently, you have been doing very well, indeed, and therefore I wouldn't be too worried about the future.

0715

August 11th, 1955

I hear from Bowker quite frequently. He is doing very well, I understand. He is interested in another job and I will see what I can do about it.

I only hear from Hindman once in a while -- the last time I heard from him, he was on a trip somewhere in the Pacific. He seems quite satisfied with his job. Outside of that, I know very little about him as he isn't as much of a writer as he might be.

Tennis week is now here and things are going along well, although no great stars have played as yet; however, I think that everyone is enjoying themselves. The heat here is not too oppressive but the humidity is terrific. Everyone here, and even more so in your area, is worried sick about Hurricane Connie; we hear now that another one, Hurricane Diana, is forming up. This will do nothing to lessen the confusion in this area!

With best regards to you and Yours, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Commander Charles A. Marinke, USN  
Staff, Commander Service Squadron TWO  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
New York, N.Y.

0716

August 11, 1955

Dear Tully:

I am sending to you herewith the pictures of yourself and some other members of the class of 1915, taken on a midshipman cruise or at least when we were plebes at Annapolis.

I have written on the back of each the names of these midshipmen, although they are so obvious that I think you will have no trouble in recognizing them.

Lil McCormick was quite interested because Ivan, as you know, was her first husband; he was lost in WW I.

It was awfully nice to see you in New York some months ago. I should have written long before this but for some reason I haven't written at all to any of the class. Presently, I shall write to you or someone in reply to some of the rude "knocks" which appear in the class bulletin. Some of the fellows have almost convinced me that these things actually happen!

Ted Breed was here yesterday for the tennis tournament. He looks very well, indeed.

I have nothing new to report except that the weather is warm and everyone is awaiting the hurricanes. Last year our results were very bad, so this year everyone is over-trained for this event. More than likely nothing will occur!

Lynde and Lil are fine!

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

*RADM T. SHELLEY, USN (RET)  
80 REGENT ST  
LONDON W1 ENG.*

0717

August 11, 1955

Dear Lil:

I am sending herewith the photographs, which I promised to send to you, of some members of 1915.

You will note that the midshipmen were all still plebes. I don't know exactly where this picture was taken; it may have been a midshipmen practice cruise or it may have been taken near the seawall at Farrugut Field.

I think that you will see from these how handsome your husband's classmates were, even at that early age.

If you want any more of these pictures I can have them made.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs LYNDE D. McPoemick  
PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, N.S.  
NEWPORT, R.I.

6 HARP MAIL

0718

August 15, 1955

Dear Janet and Hugh D:

I should feel very remiss if I failed to write you a letter today to tell you of how much I enjoyed your wonderful party on Friday night. I feel confident that Nina felt that she was in a "Seventh Heaven" and that all of us around her were angels. Frankly, I thought that very few of us were angels although a lot of us were so delighted with the whole affair that we had some angelic inclinations!

I have never seen such a large marquee and, even though it was apparently a hundred feet long, it was jammed. The music was delightful, as always when Meyer Davis plays; from reports, which you can confirm, people were there even after 6 A.M. (but not myself!). I had planned to depart early so you can imagine my "horror" upon arriving home to hear the clock strike the hour of three.

I was distressed at the fact that the Picaci lei did not arrive in "tip-top" condition. The flowers I sent elsewhere did arrive adequately but the Picaci lei, which was the "dream" of them all, was unhappily faded. I don't blame Nina for not wearing it since it in no way measured up to her loveliness. Had it arrived in its native whiteness with its wonderful odor of jasmine, I feel that she might have felt differently about it.

Many thanks for including me in this affair, and with happiness that "Mistress Connie" saw fit to leave you more or less alone on this famous night, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

MRS. HUGH D. ALCHINGLOSS  
"HAMMERSMITH" FARM  
HARRISON AVE  
NPT, R.I.

0719



August 15, 1955

Dear Dorothy and Ham:

I have been wanting to write you for the past week to tell you of how much I enjoyed the glorious party which you gave on the occasion of Ham's 80th birthday. I don't know of anyone who wasn't overwhelmed with the beauty of the whole affair and the thorough goodwill which occasioned it.

There is no doubt that you both are a wonderful pair and are thoroughly enshrined in the hearts of your many friends.

I thought that the dancing by the DeMarcos was swell. Their presence was a definite innovation on the Newport scene and indicated the completeness with which your party had been planned.

I also want to thank you for the very friendly remarks which you made concerning my little effort in your behalf. It was not too hard to do something like that when one feels a warmth about ones friends!

With many thanks again for including me and with hopes that on Ham's 90th birthday we will have another celebration of equal quality, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. A. Hamilton Rice  
"Miramar"  
Bellevue Avenue  
Newport, R.I.

0720

August 18, 1955

Dear Captain French:

When I was in California in early August I called your Commissioned Officers' Mess (Open) to see if I could arrange a dinner for about 17 persons for a stated date. I was informed (I think by your Mr. Costello) that the dining room was closed but that he would be happy to arrange the dinner for me in a private room provided that I restricted my requirements to steak or something along that line. I accepted this provision.

I gave this dinner and it was excellent in every respect. All of my guests were very happy about the whole affair.

I discovered during the middle of the dinner that the cook was none other than the manager, Mr. Tom Churchill. I, therefore, desire to bring his kind act to your attention and to point out that gestures of this nature are of great value in building up the reputation of an organization.

Needless to say, I have a very friendly regard for the quality of the Commissioned Officers' Mess (Open), Alameda, California.

With best regards, I am.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Captain L.E. French, USN  
Commanding Officer  
U.S. Naval Air Station

Alameda, California

0721

August 31, 1955

Dear Stevie:

This is merely a note to tell you of how much I enjoyed your dinner the other night; it was very pleasant, indeed. It was also very pleasant to see Schuyler again. He is certainly looking well!

What I wanted to write to you about was the charm of your apartment. I think that it is perfectly lovely, and that you and Tom Hagerman showed remarkable taste in decorating it to fit your furniture so well. I think everyone there was impressed with the whole ensemble. Clever woman!

I want you to know that I went to the Adams' party as I said I would. However, on arriving there, I noticed that everyone was on the floor, which was quite crowded, and that the Hungarian music was delightful. I realized immediately that if I checked in with Muriel I wouldn't be able to get away at all! I found out, later, that the first people to leave left between two and three A.M. Therefore, being an old hand in these matters, I asked the maid to tell you that I had come and gone. I turned around and returned home where, in a few moments, I entered the Land of Nod. There I probably heard music as wonderful as that being played at Idle Hour.

With many thanks for your thoughtful invitation, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. Stephens Wiman  
Ocean Avenue  
Newport, R.I.

0722

6 September 1955

Dear Captain Johnson:

Over the weekend I was approached by Mr. Byrnes MacDonald, a summer resident of Newport, but generally a New Yorker, relative to the commissioning ceremonies of the Forrestal. It appears that his wife, Mrs. Leta MacDonald, who was the Matron of Honor at the launching of the Forrestal, has now received an invitation, apparently from yourself, requesting her presence at the commissioning ceremonies, expected to occur this month.

Mr. MacDonald says that his wife is quite interested in accepting this invitation, not only because of her interest in the Forrestal, but because Mrs. James Forrestal, who was the Sponsor at the launching, will be in Europe and will not be present; therefore, Mrs. MacDonald feels that her presence is necessary.

Both Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald have asked me if it would be possible for the Navy to fly Mrs. MacDonald down to Newport News where the ceremonies will be held. I have, therefore, spoken to Captain Needham, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station, Quonset Point. He said he couldn't do anything but suggested that you officially request the Chief of Naval Operations for transportation for Mrs. MacDonald. He suggested further that Mrs. MacDonald might go via a Fleet Logistic Air Wing flight, but I personally think that would be unsuitable because I understand it stops at so many places.

I should appreciate learning from you how you feel about this and whether or not you plan to do anything about it.

For your information, my interest in this is solely due to the fact that I am personally well acquainted with the parties concerned. If you desire that I drop out of this I shall be glad to do so and leave the matter solely within your own hands. If you care to communicate with Mrs. MacDonald, her address is:

"Winter Cottage"  
Harrison Avenue and Brenton Road,  
Newport, R.I.

Finally, I hope the reported damage to the Forrestal will be readily repaired and that the great ship will be with the fleet on schedule. With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

*CAPT ROY L. JOHNSON USN  
C.O. U.S.S. FORRESTAL (CV-59)  
USFPO. NY NY*

R. W. BATES

0723

7 September 1955

Dear Roy:

I am sending you herewith an article written by my brother entitled "Retirement is not Retirement". I think that it is extraordinarily interesting and, for this reason, I gave it to one of the top men of McCall's Magazine, who recommended that it be sent to two magazines, viz., the Atlantic Monthly and the Readers Digest.

Rather than do that I decided that it would be better if an article of this nature were published in the Naval Institute Proceedings. I feel this way because the question of retirement is a serious one and too many people feel that if they aren't doing something after being retired they are disgraced. Of course, this is not so. As a matter of fact, it is the will of the people that those who have retired have a little relaxation before they are called to their Maker. The ability to say, "I'm loafing" with pride is something that most people are unable to do. When someone who retired says, "I'm loafing" he does it generally with shame in his voice.

I think that this article goes a long way toward clearing up the atmosphere in that regard.

My brother is now retired but was a professor on the staff of the University of California in San Francisco and later at UCLA. When he finally decided to retire (two years ahead of time) he was on the staff of Los Angeles Junior College where he remained because, as a bachelor, he didn't want to move out to Brentwood with UCLA.

I want to congratulate you on the very marked improvement in the Naval Institute Proceedings. I notice that many people not connected with the Navy at all now find it extraordinarily interesting. I have, of course, been particularly impressed with the Japanese articles although I know from here, because I have the source material, that much that is said is incorrect. This particularly applies to Admiral Koyanagi's article. However, the articles are certainly interesting even though they could never be used for research purposes.

0724

7 September 1955

I hope to see you at the reunion of the Class of '15 in a couple of weeks from now. I am sure that it will be a lot of fun and I intend to profit by it.

With best regards to you and to the staff of the Naval Institute, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Commander Roy de S. Horne, USN  
U.S. Naval Institute  
Annapolis, Maryland

0725

13 September 1955

Officer-in-Charge,  
U.S. Naval Uniform Shop  
29th & 3rd Avenue  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Over five months ago I communicated with your representative in this area -- the Newport area -- and ordered a uniform. I warned your representative, Mr. Brandt, that my figure was not in accordance with the standard forms and, therefore, I was doubtful if he would succeed in making me a suit.

I further advised him that I had discussed this matter with Anderson & Little, Fall River, Mass., on one level and Brooks Brothers, New York, on another. He assured me that the officers Uniform Shop was quite competent to do the job and he was so confident that I accepted the offer.

The suit was to be ready for me for the graduation ceremonies at the Naval War College on June 15th of this year. Needless to say, I did not get the suit on June 15th because it was very poorly constructed and was so distorted in many places that I could not accept it.

Mr. Brandt then said that he felt that if he could bring down a tailor from Boston that this tailor would do an effective job. I accepted this offer and the tailor came down. Unfortunately, the tailor was a Frenchman and spoke no English with the result that I had to try to speak to him in French. He completed the changes he thought were suitable and delivered the suit to me. I again told your Mr. Brandt that I didn't think the suit was satisfactory. I, therefore, took the suit to New York to my own tailor and asked him what was the matter with it. In doing this, I realized that I couldn't expect to get a suit which would be equivalent to that made by my New York tailor but I felt that I was entitled to obtain information from him as to errors in design and construction thereof. My tailor, who happens to be a Mr. Eugene J. Riso of 12 East 46th Street, New York, N.Y., was quite shocked and said that the uniform was wrong in all particulars. He pointed out that the front, for example, was one inch shorter than the rear so that the coat hung on a slant. He pointed out also that the shoulders were so loose that when you grab them with your hand they come into the air about three inches. There were numerous other errors.

0726

13 September 1955

I spoke over the telephone with another of your representatives on this matter (I think he was a Mr. Taylor although he might have been one of your tailors). This gentleman was very friendly and very courteous and told me that the officers Uniform Shop would make me a new suit. I have heard nothing further on this matter.

The "chickens now are coming home to roost" because I am now without a uniform of consequence. It seems to me that this is an unhappy situation which would not have occurred had your firm either admitted frankly that it couldn't accomplish the tailoring of a suit for me, or had made a more reasonable effort to produce a suit within a limited time. Five months is too long!

I should appreciate a reply by return mail as to what is being accomplished as regards this uniform.

In commenting to you about this matter I don't want to infer that I am displeased at all with Mr. Brandt. He is not a qualified tailor; he does very well indeed in ordinary things, but in this case he has found himself beyond his depth.

Very truly yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commander, U. S. NAVY (RET)

0727



September 15, 1955

My dear Father Dillon:

I was very sorry when I discovered that I would be unable to attend today's luncheon given in your honor by Herman Huffer at the Clambake Club.

Herman asked me last evening if I would be present and I replied that I should like to be but that I was doubtful if I could be there. My judgement in this matter was correct because I have been called upon to write fitness reports for all my staff this afternoon and to have them in before I leave the War College today. As you know, having written many of these reports yourself, this task isn't done in a moment's time.

I certainly hope that I shall see you before you depart for your new parish. Needless to say, you will be missed around here very much, indeed, and notably by the undersigned.

With best regards and with best wishes, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

The Reverend Gerald Dillon  
Salve Regina College  
Ochre Point Avenue  
Newport, R.I.

0728

September 15, 1955

Dear Herman:

It was with extreme regret that I was unable to attend the luncheon given by you at the Clambake Club in honor of Father Gerald Dillon of Salve Regina College.

As you perhaps know, I am very fond of Father Dillon and I should have liked nothing better than to be present today at the Club.

However, I was notified just before noon that the Naval War College wanted some reports from me today. Since this will take up my whole afternoon, I found it necessary to decline.

May I thank you very much for your thoughtfulness in asking me. Needless to say, I think it was a very generous act on your part to give this luncheon for Father Dillon and I am sure that Father Dillon appreciates your thoughtfulness in this matter as much as I regret my inability to be present.

With best wishes, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Herman C. Huffer  
123 Pelham  
Newport, R.I.

0729

September 19, 1955

Dear Lucile:

I must say that I enjoyed your dinner last evening.

In the first place, I thought that the whole menu was, in general, so different from what I have usually encountered that I realized that you had not only put a lot of care on it but, in addition, had a most excellent cook. Congratulations!

I also want to tell you of how much I enjoyed playing Canasta with those three charming ladies. I have never been assailed with such strong language by anyone before more than I was by Julia B. but it was all in good fun, and I nearly died with laughter as did everyone else there.

I have never seen Julia in such wonderful form. For a woman in her nineties, she is absolutely incredible and her playing last night, except for one or two lapses, was equal to that of anyone else.

I am sorry if I embarrassed you at all by asking not to play but I generally try to make it a rule, on a Sunday night, to go home early as Monday is usually a "Blue Monday" and I do not want to make it any bluer than it usually is.

Anyway, I thoroughly enjoyed the whole affair for which I give you my thanks.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. Joseph W. Frazer  
"Mare Haute"  
Ocean Drive,  
Newport, R.I.

0730

6 October 1955

Dear Roy:

In a matter of a few days an article called "International Law at the Naval War College", and prepared by Rear Admiral T.H. Robbins, Chief of Staff, Naval War College, will arrive in your hands.

The Naval War College is interested in having this article published as it not only expounds the position of the War College with relation to International Law but it also explains the method of instruction in the Blue Books, and the Correspondence Courses. I hope that you will see fit to publish it as, in my mind, it presents a much-needed exposition on the above matters.

I enjoyed my trip to the class reunion very much, indeed, and I was very happy to be in conference with you and to discover that you have such a vital interest in the preparation of a proper Naval History for the use of the Midshipmen. I concur with you that, where possible, such a history should be realistic and honest. It can generally only achieve such a level when the understanding of warfare necessary to the writing is in the hands of the writer or writers. In other words, no one should undertake such an assignment unless he has had considerable experience at sea with the fleet.

It was nice to meet Ann. She certainly is a beauty, and was the object of considerable friendly comment on the part of our classmates. Congratulations, my friend!

I was sorry that you had the Hazletts with you as guests because although I met many people who were staying at Carvel Hall I did not meet anyone who was not staying there excepting, of course, at the various parties where the meeting was usually short. I have a great affection for the Hazletts and it is too bad that I missed them.

As I complete this letter, the papers which you sent from the Naval Institute have arrived. Thanks for returning them and thanks for your interest. I think perhaps you

0731

6 October 1955

are right in your attitude, although I didn't know that everything in the Naval Institute was purely military. Retirement comes to all and most of the readers of the Naval Institute Proceedings are most likely not Naval or even military people.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Commander Roy De S. Horn, USN(Ret)  
Managing Editor  
U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings  
Annapolis, Md.

0732

October 6, 1955

Dear General Eddleman:

I received your change of address card with mingled emotion. On the one hand I am very happy for you that you are to be a Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army with the rank of Lieutenant General. I have no doubt that it is a well-deserved assignment and one in which you will be of great value to the Army and to your Country. On the other hand I feel that the Services require the highest possible mental training at their War Colleges and therefore the heads of these colleges should be the best leaders available. Because of this no one could have been more pleased than I was when I learned of your assignment to the Army War College. Therefore, I must admit that I view your detachment with considerable concern.

I certainly hope that your relief will measure somewhat to your specifications and that the Army War College will continue to grow, and be the potent force within the Army that it has been in the many years of its existence.

It was wonderful to see you here in Newport and to have the privilege of associating with you again. You are a wonderful fellow and you did all of us a great deal of good! I certainly wish you all success in your new assignment.

With best regards, I am,

An old combat shipmate,

R. W. BATES

Major General C.W. Eddleman, USA  
Army War College,  
Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

0733

October 6, 1955

My dear Mr. President:

As a 1915 graduate of the Naval Academy and as a great admirer of yours over the many years, you can imagine my concern, as well as that of the whole nation, when word was received of your indisposition because of a heart attack.

I have been pleased to note that you are rapidly improving and that the Nation and the World will once again have the benefit and advantage of your wise leadership and understanding.

Some years ago a man wrote a book entitled, "Thank God For My Heart Attack". The American Heart Association approved of this book and I have given copies to a few friends of mine who required it. I feel that, as President of the United States, as an officer of the Army, as a member of the class of 1915 at West Point, but most of all as a fellow citizen of this republic and an old football player, you are a friend of mine.

I am therefore taking the liberty of sending you a copy of this book which I think will not only amuse you, but may give you very valuable information concerning your future operations.

With best wishes for your complete recovery,  
I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
(Retired)

0734

October 10, 1955

Dear Jack:

It was a very fortunate thing for me, as I look back at it, that I called you on Tuesday morning at your office. Very frankly, I had no expectation of going to the World Series and, if you will remember, at first I wasn't too enthusiastic about it. I was so busy that I feared that my work would last all day.

Firstly, I want to tell you what a pleasure it was to see you after three missing months. You are a helluva fellow, and I always feel my New York trips are failures if somehow I don't run into you or at least talk to you. Don't let this habit die! And, although I am usually a Yankee fan, I feel that, in this case, the victory of the Dodgers was best for baseball. The bad psychological effect the continued defeats of the Dodgers had on the Brooklyn area was bound to spread over into the Manhattan area. In such case, neither the Yankees nor the Dodgers, would ever win any of the league championships.

I enjoyed dining with you at the Metropolitan Club although I was sorry that I failed to see "Babe". Your report to me of her illness bothered me at the time. I hope that she is now fully recovered. I also enjoyed the lunch the next day with Admiral Hillenkoetter and you at the Wall Street Club. Hillie's driver got me to the airport in plenty of time so that there was no rush anywhere, except at the one time when I didn't want it -- lunch!

I was glad to see that our pool games measured up to the usual standard, both off the one-ball, and the winner determined more or less by luck. I think we average about even on this, so next time you are in this area I will defeat you via Newport rules.

0735



October 10, 1955

I have your invitation to the Navy League dinner. I shall endeavor to go. I will talk the matter over with Admiral McCormick presently and will advise you accordingly.

I notice that at this dinner you have me slated for the dais where I always sit and from whence I can also see who is present at the dinner. However, I cannot wear a uniform if I wanted to because my uniforms have been destroyed by the cleaners. I should have two new ones this week but I cannot guarantee this. If I go, therefore, I plan to wear a dinner coat; I noticed that a lot of people did last time.

Things are going along fine up here. The weather is delightful and the beauty of the autumn leaves is beyond belief. You had better get out on the highway and take a look.

With best regards and with thanks for everything, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES.

Rear Admiral John J. Bergen, USNR  
40 Wall Street  
New York, N.Y.

0736

10 October 1955

Dear Charlie:

I received your letter with a great deal of interest. From your whole manner, I can see that you are concerned about two things; one, the pressure of your operating assignments, and two, your future promotion.

I concur with you that your responsibilities connected with the Service Force is great, and I have no doubt that you are accomplishing it adequately. The fact that the new commodore, i.e., Commodore Henkel, leaves the country as frequently as he does indicates the degree of confidence he has in your capabilities.

I also concur with you completely that it would be well for you to have some sort of command prior to your appearing before the selection board. My regret here is that they told me very plainly in the Navy Department that the selections would not reach you for a long time; in fact, Admiral Daniel suggested that it would not be until this coming year. However, they did go down to pick up a few technical men beyond you, which I know irritated you exceedingly.

I will do as you request and will see Admiral Daniel to see if it is possible for him to move you into one of his destroyer division vacancies which, I presume, appear from time to time. I consider you a very capable officer and I think that your understanding of destroyer operations, particularly after working on the Battle of Savo Island, is much greater than that of most officers of your time, if not of the whole Navy.

I expect to be in Washington in a couple of weeks and I will discuss the matter also with the detail officer of the Navy Department, Admiral Grenfell. However, I want to see Admiral Daniel before I go to see Admiral Grenfell.

As a matter of humor, I notice your letter is dated 5 April 1955. Have you had it on your desk that long?

I will also look into the question of a diploma for you. I did not do it before because I thought that you would enjoy a course here. However, it seems to me that you should be given the same consideration as some others. It is all up to the President of the Naval War College.

0737

10 October 1955

I was somewhat surprised at your comment about the GRANT-DENVER-LOUISVILLE incident. Your remark shows clearly that my aphorism "The finest memory is less enduring than the poorest ink" is true. What is in the Surigao Strait study, now in your hands, is absolutely new and was written to cover the situation which, at the time you and I worked on it, appeared unsolvable. I now feel sure I have solved it completely.

I am not too interested in those torpedo mooring board solutions. I had not meant that all of them were to be done by any means, but there were a couple of places in the book where I thought we might show by diagram what we were referring to. I cannot take the time off at this moment to locate these places but I think I can do it readily once I dig into it.

The book is not very thick based on other volumes. At present it would total about 300 pages. Volume II of the Battle for Leyte Gulf, which you should have on board your flagship and which I recommend that you look at, has 381 pages of basic data. Of course, this does not include the appendices, foreword, brief of the battle, etc.

So far, in the criticisms of the Surigao Strait study, there has been only one adverse comment (until I received yours today). That comment was from a newly-made admiral who felt that it was too difficult to read and felt that we hadn't given his command, the BENNION, enough hits. He said that no matter what the analysis gave, he chose to believe that the BENNION had made two hits. I have written to him and pointed out that his thinking was erroneous. He will be up in this area for two days presently and I hope to see him at which time I plan to point out to him (a) what we are endeavoring to accomplish here and (b) how we are not preparing a check-off list or simple narrative, but rather a study of the conduct of the principal commanders in this action. I think there is much to be learned from this study of the Battle of Surigao Strait. In fact, Admiral Curts, Deputy Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet (and Chief of Staff), said he thought the study was excellent.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Commander Charles A. Marinke, USN  
Staff, Commander Service Squadron TWO  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
New York, N.Y.

0738

12 October 1955

Dear Captain Nutting:

First, let me congratulate you upon what appears to be an advancement for you. It seems to me, from what I can ascertain, that you are now head of the Training Division of the Bureau of Naval Personnel. I hope this is so because in my association with you I have always found you very capable and understanding of the problems with which your division is faced.

This brings up another problem which will be "raising its ugly head" presently. That is the problem of my operations as the head of this section. As you know, every year this matter arises and so far has been settled in favor of the Naval War College.

Yesterday, I was called by Admiral Duncan, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, as was Admiral McCormick. I don't know entirely what he told Admiral McCormick but I do know what he told me. He said that (a) in December, the matter would once again arise as to whether I was to be retained on active duty, (b) he hoped to so retain me, (c) it was always possible that he might not be able to accomplish this objective, although he didn't think that this would happen, and (d) he desired that I make preparations with the Bureau of Naval Personnel for a contract should he be unable to keep me on active duty. In referring to me, of course, I presume he was really referring to all retired officers.

I told him that I would be down in Washington in a couple of weeks at which time I hoped to be able to discuss the matter with him. To this, he was entirely agreeable. I understand that Admiral McCormick has to write him a letter requesting that the work be continued and that I do it.

Admiral Duncan asked if I was the only officer who could do this task and I replied that (a) I didn't know whether I was or not, but that I had been told by the highest authorities everywhere that I was (and that this is also the opinion of the President of the Naval War College and has been the opinion of the Presidents before him), (b) continuity is so important that even if someone else were able to do it I didn't think they should be called upon to do it because of the enormous loss of time, and (c) therefore

0739

12 October 1955

I should carry the load even if I didn't want to. I told him, however, in this connection that I thought it was so important that I was glad to do it. To this, he replied that he wanted me to do it and that, as far as he could see, I was the logical person to continue the work.

As you know, this matter arose in 1953 with Admiral Larson when I was told (by Admiral Larson, as well as by Admiral Fyfe and Admiral Holloway) to prepare my "hurricane plan". That meant that I was to have some sort of contract with the Bureau of Naval Personnel to complete the assignment. The Bureau discussed the matter and finally gave me a contract which was one of those \$50-a-day affairs for so many days and with re-tired pay for the remaining days. That contract I have in my desk drawer; it is not finished and probably will require a new form or something. Admiral Richard Conolly, who is now President of Long Island University, has suggested to me that perhaps he could have me contracted to Long Island University but to work here at the Naval War College. I don't know what is best but I would appreciate your courtesy if you would look up this matter so that when I talk to Admiral Duncan I can tell him what is planned should the unexpected occur.

It is too bad that this matter has to arise every year, but it does. I suppose that it has to do with budgets and other factors, such as Assistant Secretaries.

Finally, I want to say that whatever is decided will, of course, be satisfactory to me. I merely wish to complete a job which is well underway.

As an indication of the quality of these books, I received a query the other day from Admiral Hillenkoetter, who said, "I have read Volume I and I thought it marvelous; where is Volume II?". I told him that I had been informed that they had been mailed and that he should have it. If I am in error in this, would you mind checking with the proper sources to ascertain why?

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Captain K.L. Nutting, USN

0740